The Government is regulating manufacture and marketing of only those Medical devices, which are notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. Sterile disposable perfusion sets, Sterile disposable Hypodermic Syringes and Sterile disposable Needles for single use only, In vitro Diagnostics devices for HIV.

HbsAg & HCV are notified under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and are regulated. Coronary stents, hips and knees are not notified under the said Act.

Use of banned anti-malaria drug quinacrine

2060. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a ban on anti-malaria drug 'Quinacrine' for dual use as a female contraceptive, hundreds of ignorant women in rural West Bengal are still being pushed the cheap chemical that has carcinogenic properties;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 10,000 women in West Bengal could be among probable victims of the drug; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop the use of banned drug?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Government no such case been reported.

(c) Necessary legal action under the relevant provisions; Drugs and Cosmetics Acts and Rules will be taken, if any such incidents are reported.

Correct level of blood pressure

2061. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports in print media that the diastolic/systolic reading of blood pressure at 120/80 which was considered to be ideal till recently is now regarded as high calling for immediate medical attention;

(b) whether Government shares this perception and if so, the steps Government have taken/propose to take to educate the public about this silent killer disease; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The article in Hindustan Times dated 21.5.2003 is reported to be based on the guidelines issued by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Bank Institute, USA in their Seventh Report of Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection,Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure which suggests that individuals with the Systolic Blood Pressure of 120-139 mmHg or a Diastolic blood pressure of 80-89 mmhg should be considered as prehypertensives and require health promoting lifestyle modifications to prevent Cardiovascular Disease (CVD). According to the Experts in the field no drug treatment is required for prehypertensives unless there are Compelling reasons to treat with drugs like patients with diabetes or chronic kidney disease. As CVD is lifestyle related disease, the Government is spreading health messages to increase Public Health Awareness about heart diseases and healthy living practices.

Assistance to NGOs in North-Eastern Region

2062. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of NGOs granted assistance in the North-Eastern Region during the last year and till date, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the list of pending proposals; and

(c) by when, the grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of trie House.